US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
3437 Airport Way
Suite 206
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4777

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: April 18, 2006

EXPIRATION DATE: May 18, 2006

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2006-442-4

WATERWAY NUMBER: Tanana River

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Department of Public Works, Post Office Box 71267, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267, (907) 459-1345

LOCATION: 64.7971°N, -147.7368°W. Tanana Lakes area, sections 27 and 28, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Fairbanks Meridian, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

WORK: Dredging of 700,000 cubic yards (cy) of gravel by dragline from approximately 12 acres of waters of the United States, filling approximately 5.94 acres with 36,000 cy of clean fill, and stockpiling of 200,000 cy of dredged material in 3.65 acres. The work would be performed as preliminary development of the Tanana Lakes Park concept, in accordance with the attached plans, sheets 1-12, dated April 13, 2006.

PURPOSE: To develop a gravel source for daily cover at a landfill.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The attached narrative (sheets 11 and 12) gives an in-depth description of the project. Additional details about select portions of the project proposal follow:

The 15-acre site in the southern portion of the project area would be developed to accommodate dragline operations. Approximately 18,500 cy of silt overburden would be used to fill 3.6 of these acres to prepare the site for use. Once operations begin, a 450-foot diameter area (3.65 acres) would be used to stockpile up to 200,000 cy of extracted gravel.

The 700-foot long silt water retention berm would be 12 feet wide at the top and up to 54 feet wide at the toe, thus the berm would occupy approximately 0.87 acres.

It is anticipated the anchor point for Dredge Area 1 would be wholly contained in the levee road and/or the side slope of the road. However, there is the potential for the anchor pad to be as large as 75' x 75', which could require up to 1,000 cy of fill be placed in the lake to develop the pad. Because the anchor pad would be designed by the contractor performing the gravel extraction, no details of the anchor point are currently available.

The existing dirt road/trail at the north end of the project site would be widened and graded to develop an access road. The road would be approximately 750'L x 30'W (0.51 acres), and up to 6" of gravel would be used for road surfacing. Additional gravel would be placed as needed to maintain the road during operations.

The silt stockpile that would be placed in the northeast portion of the project area would be 420'L x 100'W (0.96 acres) and would accommodate up to 12,000 cy of overburden.

The area labeled as "Trees to Remain Undisturbed" on sheets 2, 3, and 4 is outside the currently proposed project area but is in an area that may be developed in the future. These trees, along with other undisturbed areas, would remain in place under the proposed and future development projects.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) was consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. No historic sites were located within one mile of the project area. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful

weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Sharon Seim by email at Sharon.G.Seim@poa02.usace.army.mil, or by phone at (907) 474-2166, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program
401 Certification Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

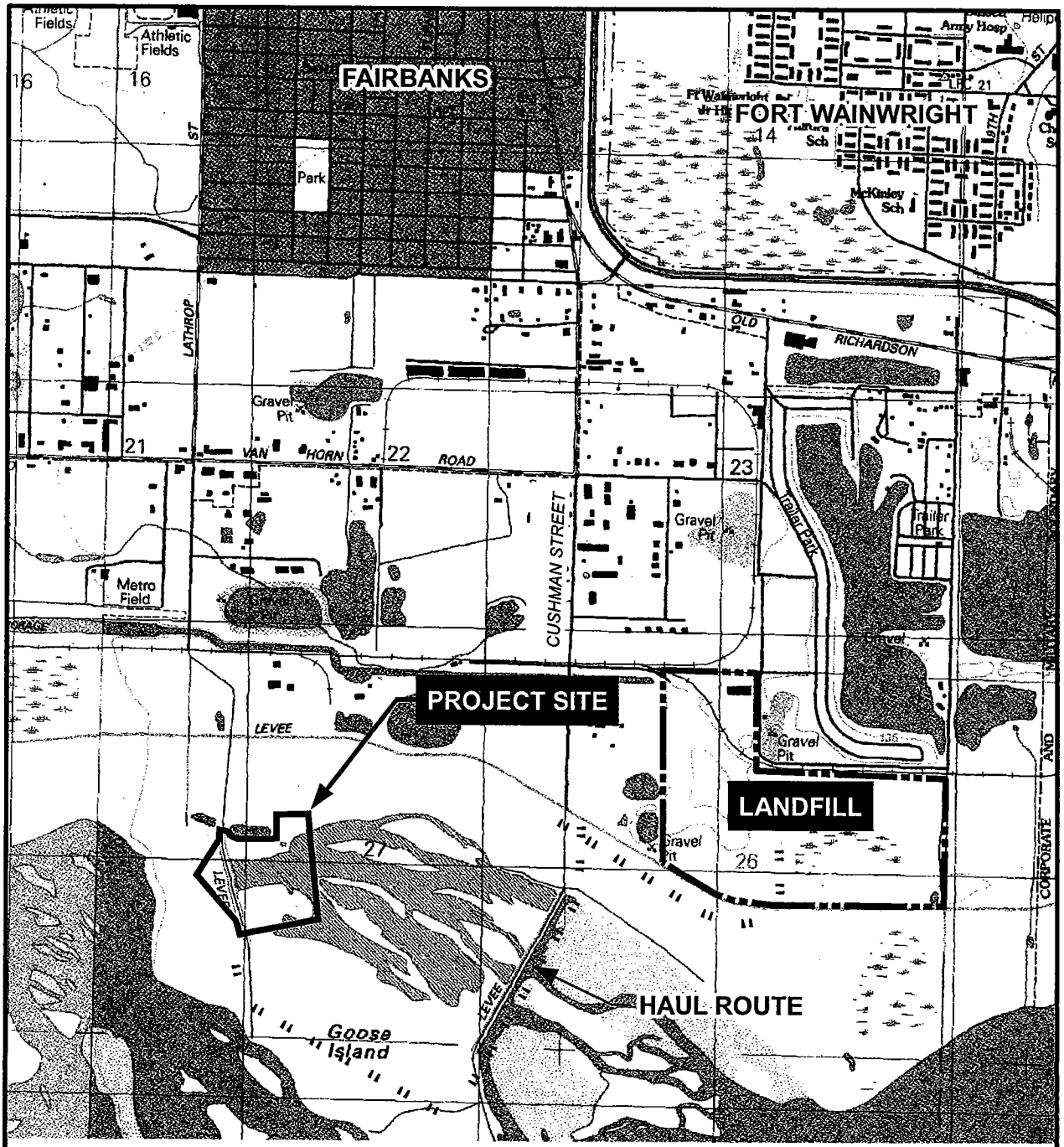
Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA 2006 442 4, Tanana River** serves as application for a short-term variance of State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation, as provided in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217).

The Department will review the proposed activity to ensure that, except for an allowed, short-term variance, any discharge to waters of the United States resulting from the referenced project will comply with the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments within 30 days of the date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice to:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-7564
FAX: (907) 269-7508



0 625 1,250 2,500 3,750 5,000 Feet

Map Courtesy USGS
Fairbanks D2 SW
Fairbanks D2 SE
1992

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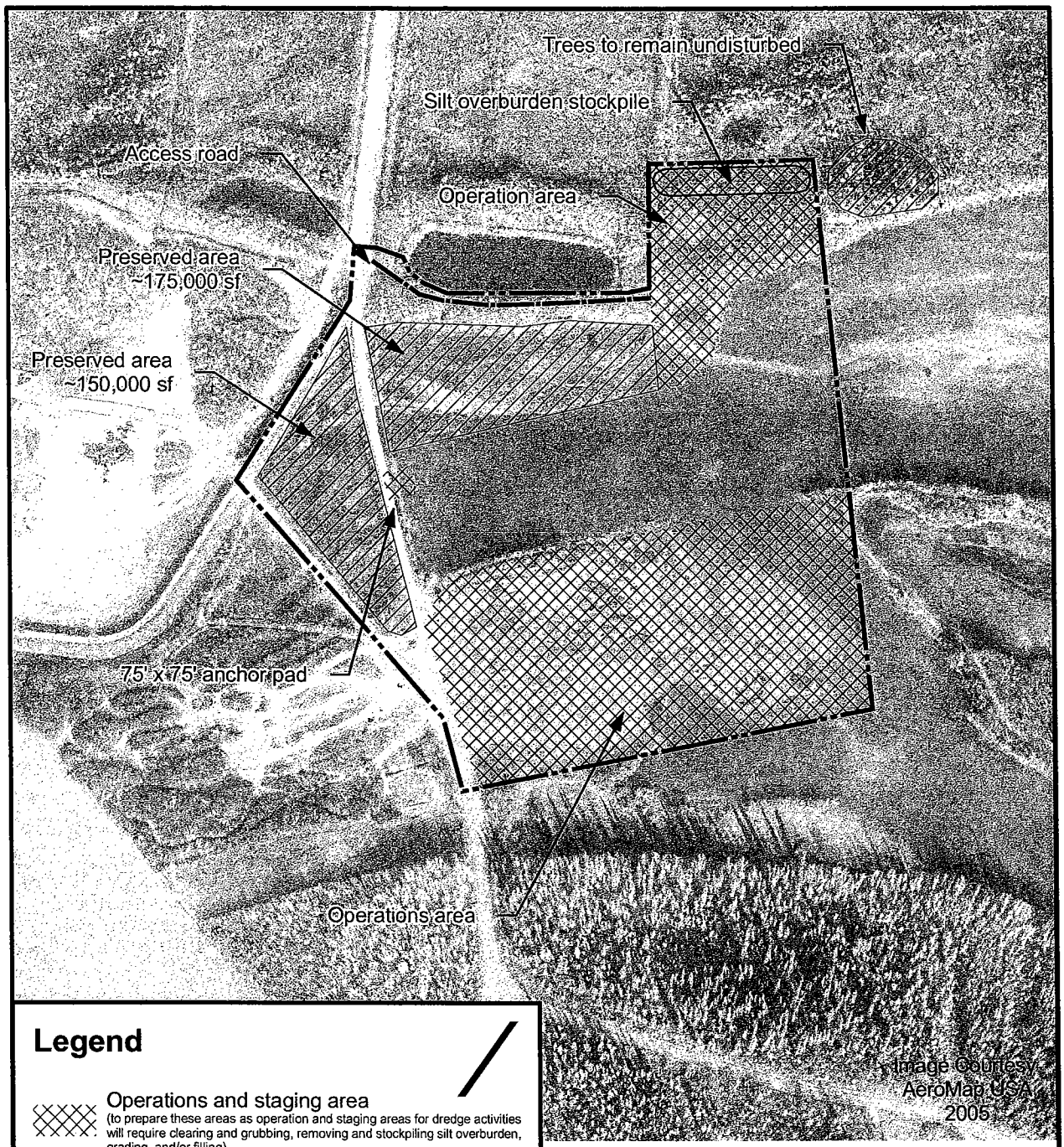
VICINITY MAP AND HAUL ROUTE **FIGURE 1**

Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Vicinity Map
1" ≈ 2200 feet



Legend

Operations and staging area
(to prepare these areas as operation and staging areas for dredge activities will require clearing and grubbing, removing and stockpiling silt overburden, grading, and/or filling)

Area to be preserved for fish and wildlife habitat

Project boundary

0 200 400 800 Feet

1 inch equals 400 feet

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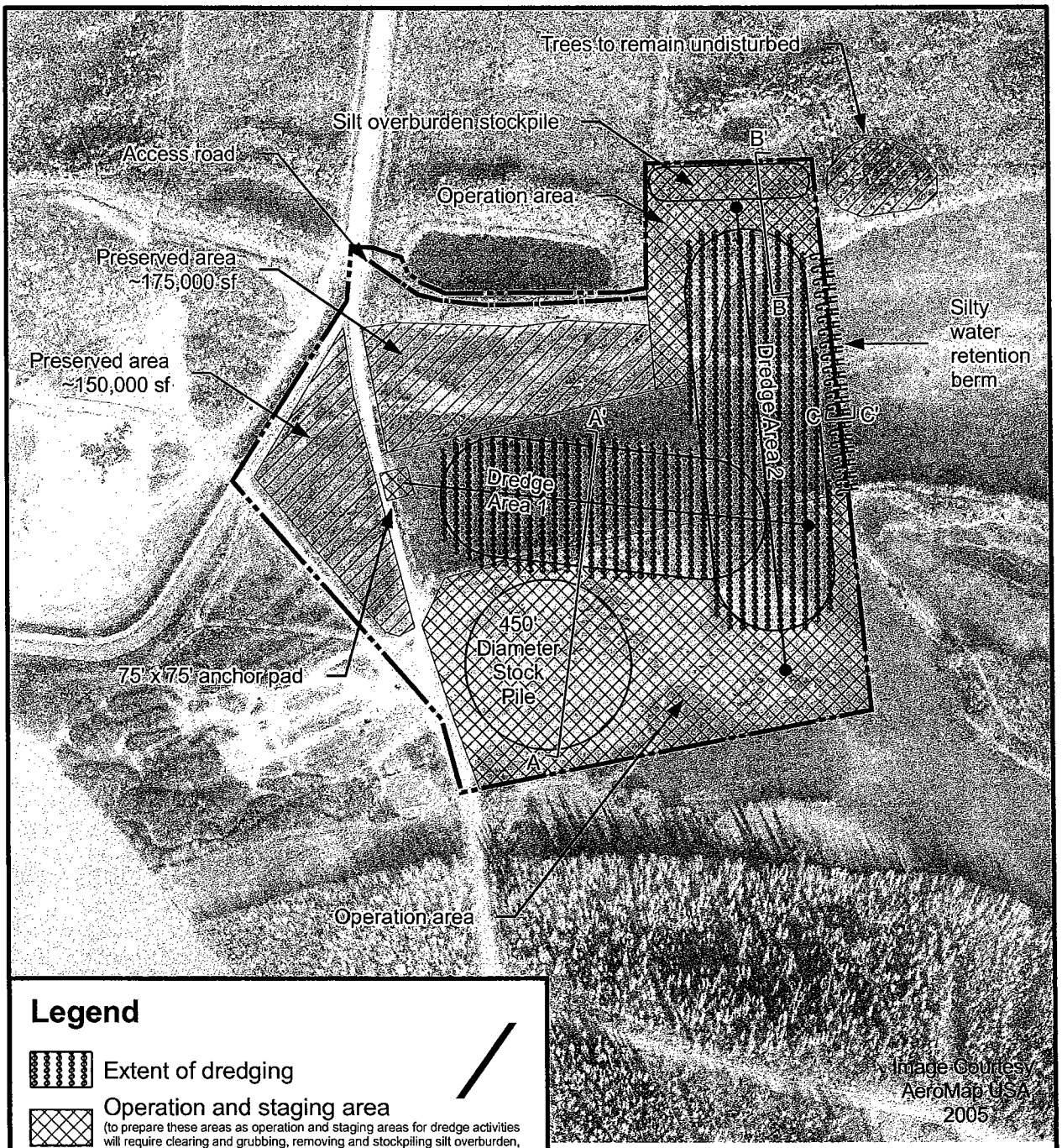
GRAVEL SOURCE PLAN
LIMITS OF FILLING & CLEARING
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 2

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Project Boundary
1" = 400 feet



Legend

- Extent of dredging
- Operation and staging area (to prepare these areas as operation and staging areas for dredge activities will require clearing and grubbing, removing and stockpiling silt overburden, grading, and/or filling)
- Area to be preserved for fish and wildlife habitat
- Project boundary

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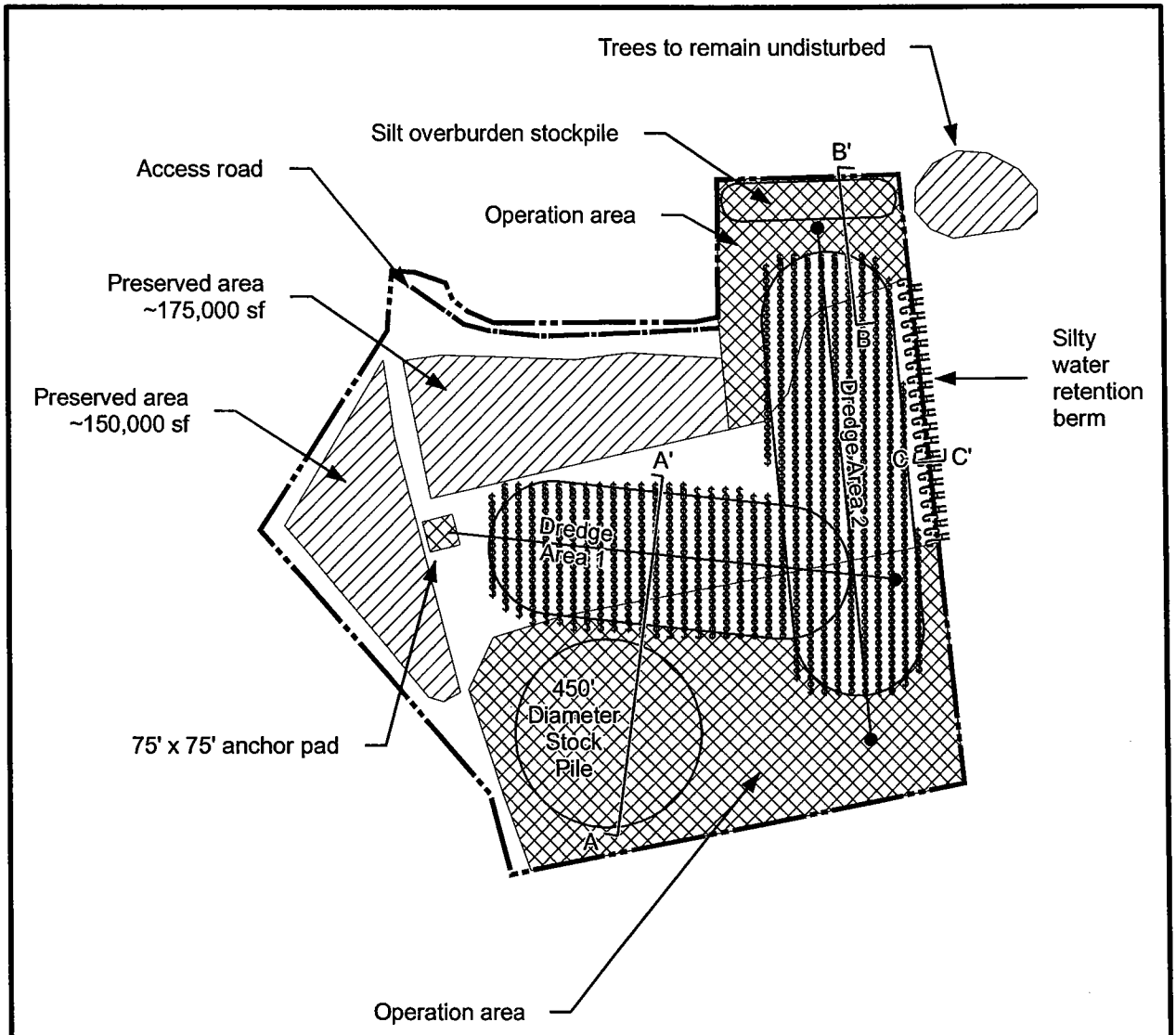
GRAVEL SOURCE PLAN
DREDGE ACTIVITY
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 3a

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Project Plan A
1" = 400 feet



Legend

- Extent of dredging
- Operation and staging area
  (to prepare these areas as operation and staging areas for dredge activities will require clearing and grubbing, removing and stockpiling silt overburden, grading, and/or filling)
- Area to be preserved for fish and wildlife habitat
- Project boundary

Image Courtesy
AeroMap USA
2005

0 200 400 800 Feet

1 inch equals 400 feet

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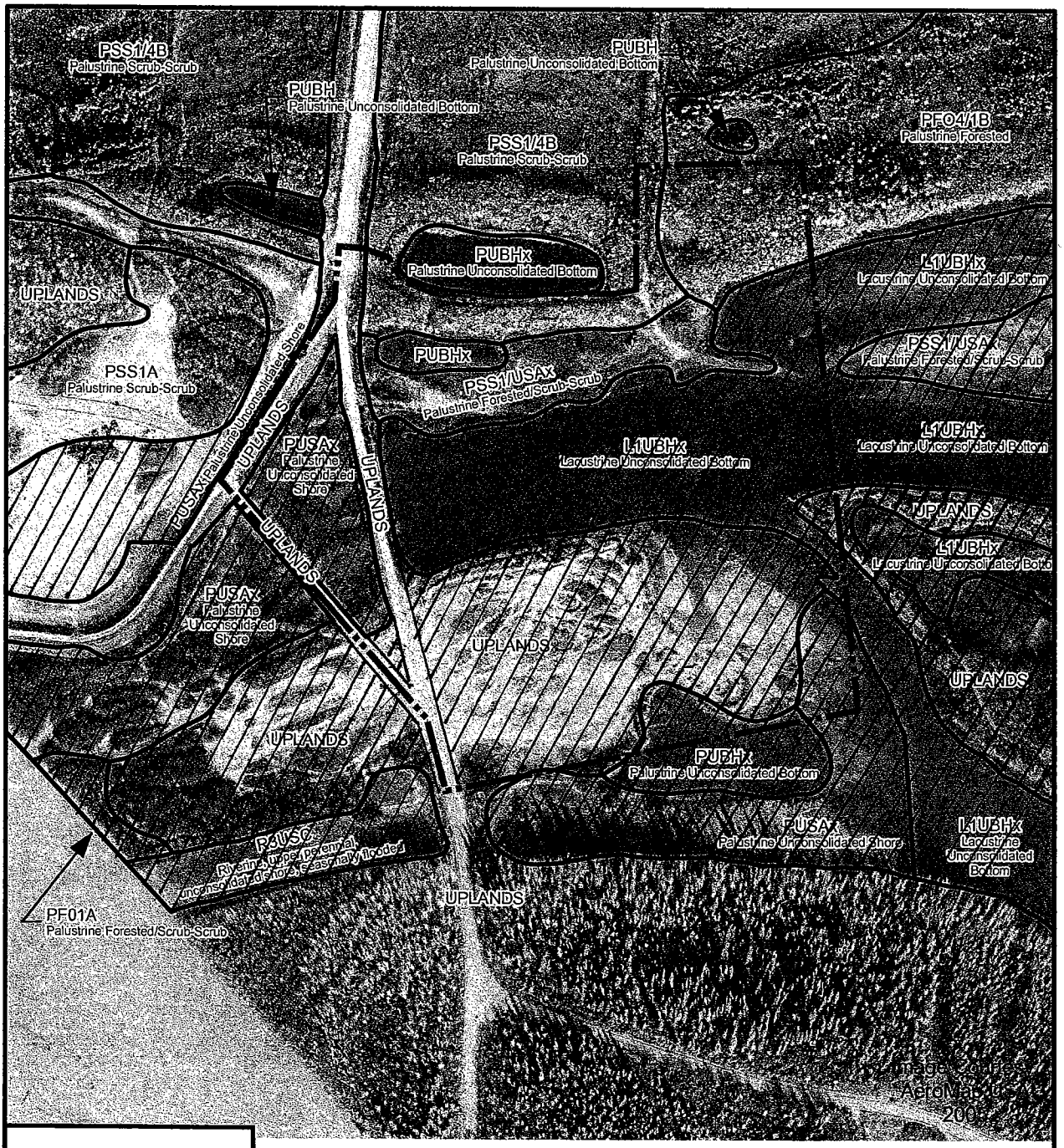
GRAVEL SOURCE PLAN
DREDGE ACTIVITY
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE
3b

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Project Plan B
1" = 400 feet



Legend

Project Site

NOTE:
Wetland delineation derived from the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory http://www.fws.gov/nwi/

0 125 250 500 Feet

1 inch equals 400 feet

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WETLANDS DELINEATION
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 4

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
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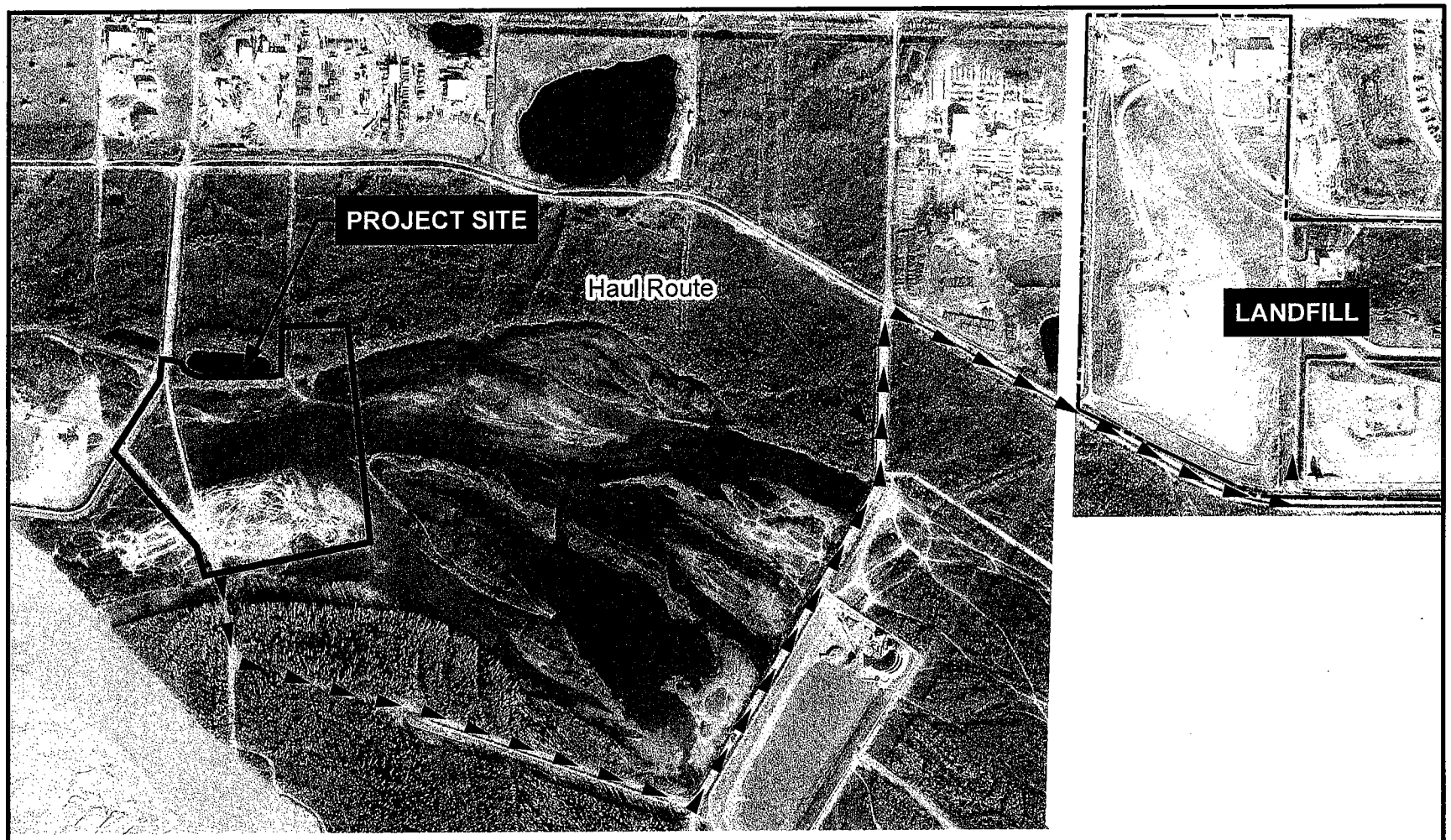
Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

= Section 10 waters of the U.S.

Jurisdictional Areas
1" = 400 feet



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

1 inch equals 1,000 feet

Legend

►►► Haul Route

Image Courtesy
AeroMap USA
2005

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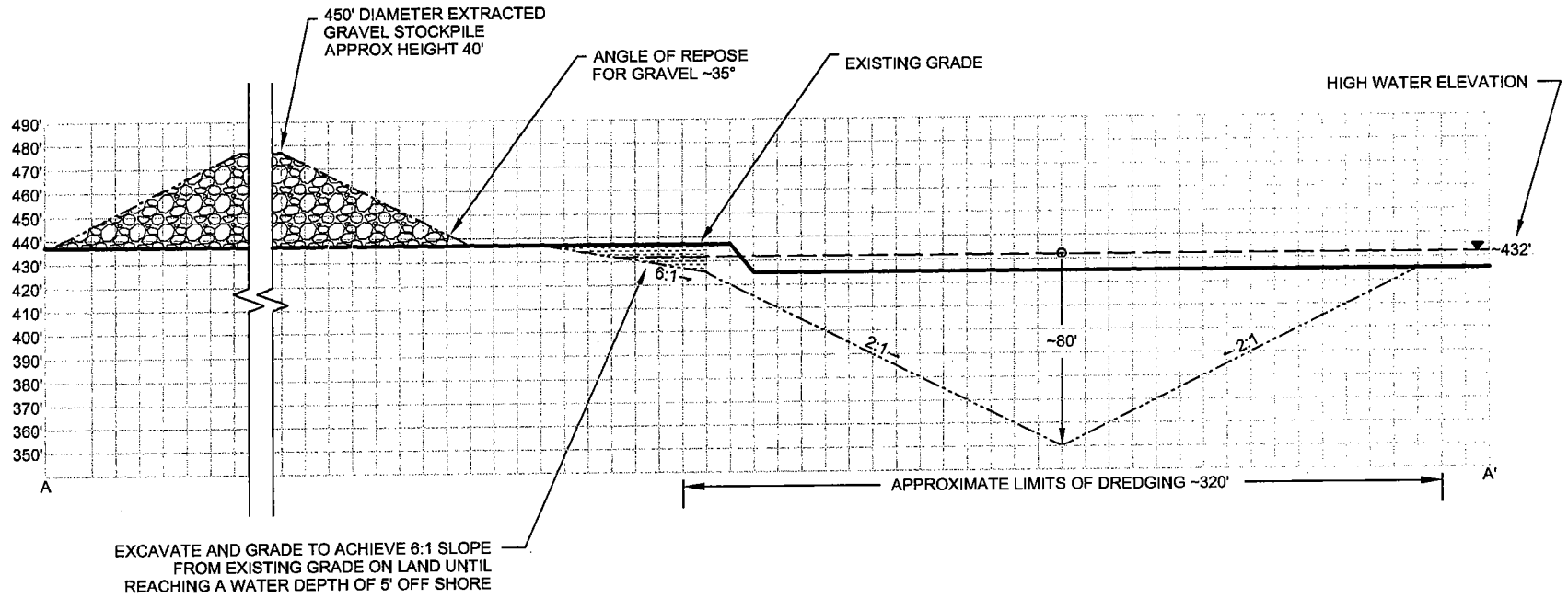
EXISTING HAUL ROUTE
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 5

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Haul Route
1" = 1000 feet



A-A'
TYPICAL SECTION SHOWING EXCAVATED PIT AND GRAVEL STOCKPILE

Horizontal scale: 1 inch equals 70 feet
Vertical scale: 1:1

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GRAVEL SOURCE DETAILS

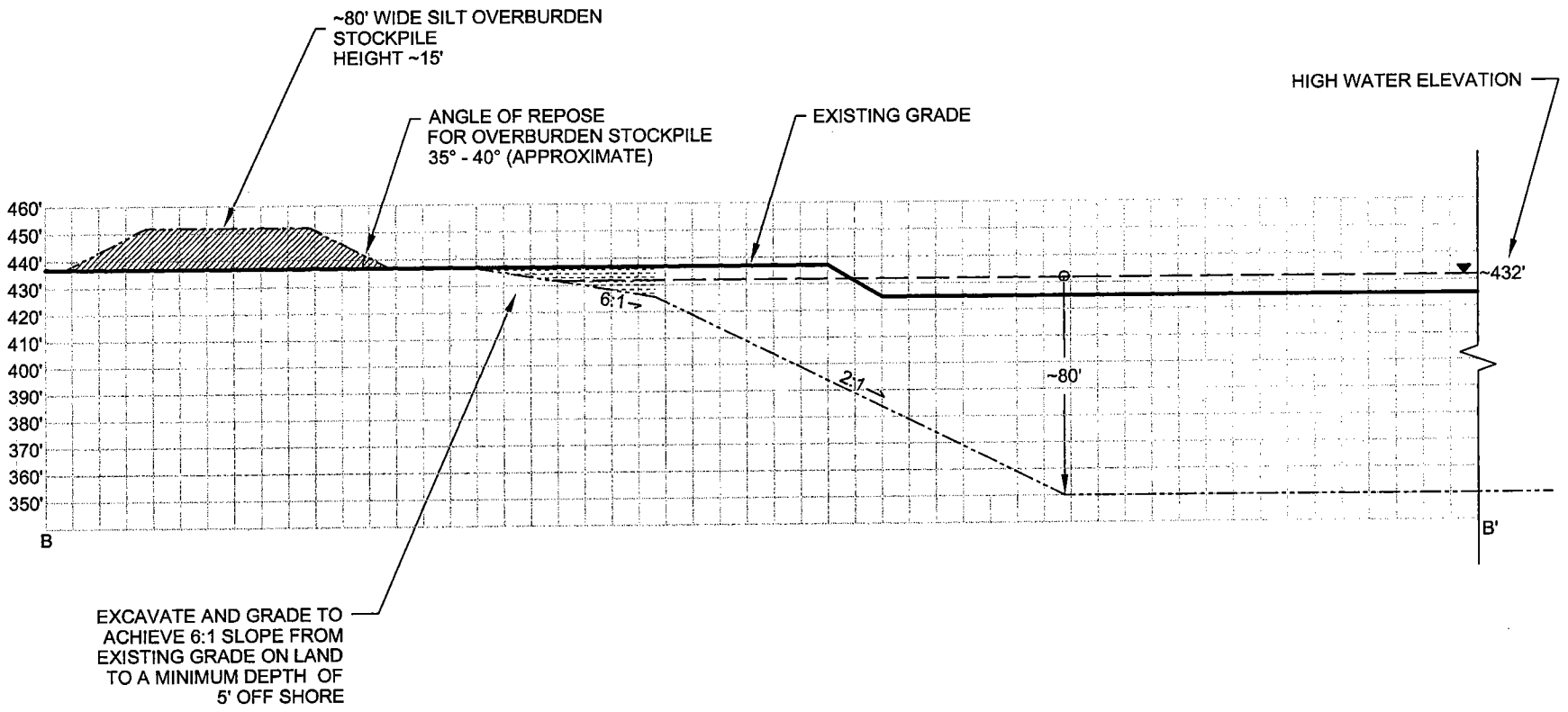
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 6

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Excavation & Stockpile Section A



B-B'

TYPICAL SECTION SHOWING EXCAVATED PIT AND SILT OVERBURDEN STOCKPILE

Horizontal scale: 1 inch equals 60 feet

Vertical scale: 1:1

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GRAVEL SOURCE DETAILS

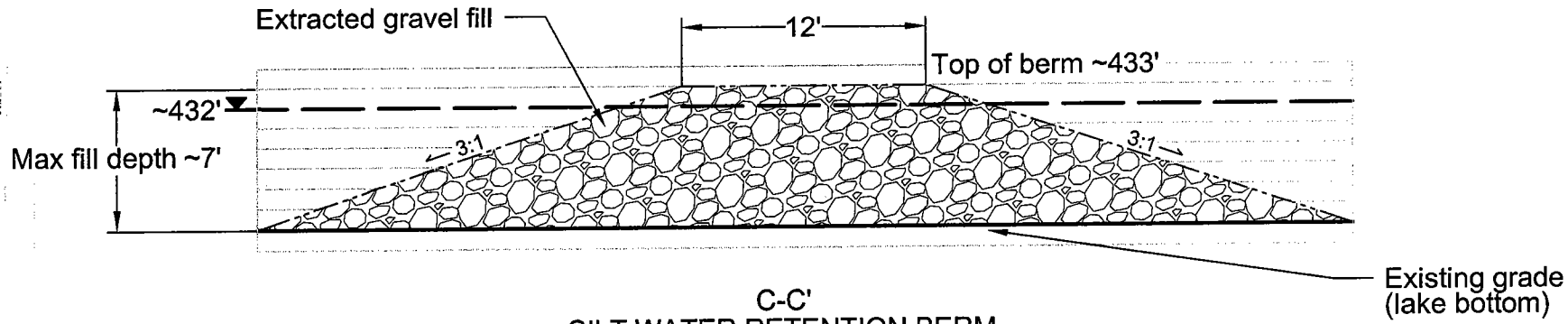
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 7

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Excavation & Stockpile Section B



C-C'
SILT WATER RETENTION BERM

Horizontal scale: 1 inch equals 8 feet
Vertical scale: 1:1

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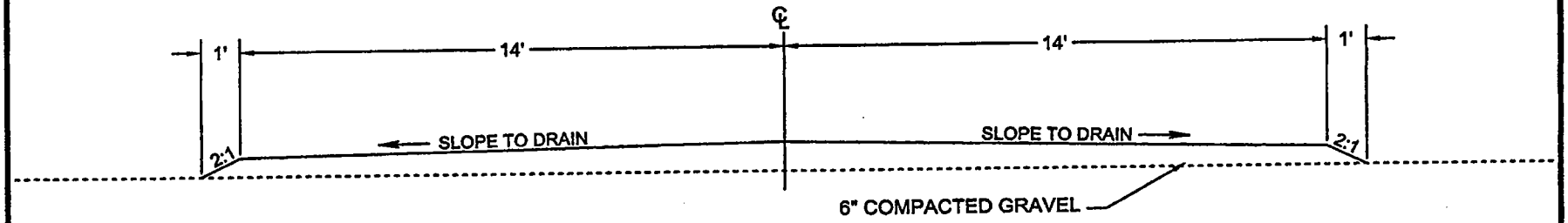
GRAVEL SOURCE DETAILS
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE
8

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Retention Berm Section



TYPICAL SECTION PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD AT NORTH END OF PROJECT SITE

SCALE 1" = 4'

NOTES:

1. ROAD SURFACING TO BE CONSTRUCTED FROM GRAVEL EXTRACTED ON SITE
2. ROADWAY WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED APPROXIMATELY 6-INCHES ABOVE EXISTING GRADE

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PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Fairbanks, Alaska

FIGURE 9

DRAWN	PROJECT NUMBER	APPROVED
JAT	4032060001	PB

Fairbanks North Star Borough
POA-2006-442-4, Tanana River
Plans prepared: Apr. 13, 2006, by S. Seim

Access Road Section

Tanana Lakes Gravel Extraction
Project Description

Work to be performed under this permit is part of the preliminary development of the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (Borough) Tanana Lakes Park concept. The Borough estimates that the Tanana Lakes Master Plan will be issued late fall 2006. Once an approved Master Plan is developed with public comments incorporated, the Borough will apply for a separate Section 404 permit encompassing future development of the Tanana Lakes Park. The purpose of the work performed under this permit is to extract gravel from the west portion of the Tanana Lakes to use as a source of daily cover material at the South Cushman Landfill. Work performed under this permit is estimated to begin in the summer of 2006. Dredge Area 1 will be mined for approximately 3 years and will be completed under this permit. It is anticipated that mining Dredge Area 2 will require renewal of this permit or be incorporated into the scope of work under a separate permit for future development of the Park.

This project involves activities typical to the development of a gravel source. Figure 2 shows the boundary of the project limits. The plan is to extract gravel from the lake using a tower-type dragline. Activities include clearing and grubbing; constructing a new access road; maintaining the new and existing access and haul roads; removing silt overburden; filling; grading and leveling operation and staging areas; constructing a silty-water barrier; dredging gravel from the lake; stockpiling the excavated gravel; and final site grading.

Estimated quantities are based on a summer high water elevation of 432 feet. The estimated depth of excavation ranges from 0 to 80 feet and the estimated depth of fill ranges from 0 to 8 feet. The excavation plan is based on 2:1 side slopes in the dredged area. 6:1 side slopes will be developed off the shoreline, from the existing ground elevation until reaching a water depth of 5 feet.

Gravel will be extracted from two areas within the project area: Dredge Area 1 and Dredge Area 2 (see Figure 3a and 3b). Extraction from these two areas will not occur simultaneously. The first area of extraction, Dredge Area 1, involves excavating material via dragline, from the west end of the lake in the west to east direction. Before excavation begins, the 15-acre area located at the southern portion of the project area will be developed to accommodate the dragline operations (see Figure 2). In addition to establishing an operation and staging area, developing this area by means of filling and grading will allow this area to act as a berm or dike protecting the quality of lake water south of the project area. Approximately 3 acres of shallow water at the east end of this area will need to be filled with approximately 15,000 CY of silt overburden. There is also a small, approximately 0.60-acre shallow lake at the southern limits of this area that will need to be filled with approximately 3,500 CY of overburden. There is an existing silt overburden stockpile located in the southwest portion of the project. Material from this stockpile will be salvaged and used to fill in these shallow water areas. The dragline tower will be set up on the northeast corner of the newly developed South shoreline and will anchor to a 75' x 75' area (approximate) on the west side of the lake adjacent to and/or in the road; a minimal amount of fill may be required to build or level an area for the anchor pad. Approximately 320,000 CY of gravel is anticipated to be extracted from Dredge Area 1. The first 5,000 CY (approx.) of gravel extracted from this area will be used to construct a 700 feet-long x 12 feet-wide dike along the eastern limits of the project site to prevent silty water from the dredging operations to flow into the clean water of the adjacent lake area east of the project. The silty water retention berm will not be removed upon completion of this project; it will remain in place for use in future Tanana Lakes Park development.

The second area of excavation, Dredge Area 2, involves dredging material via dragline at the east end of the lake from north to south. The dragline will be staged in the southeast corner of the project area and will anchor about 200' inland on the northeast shoreline. Prior to extracting gravel from this area, approximately 3.5 acres of trees and vegetation located at the northeast corner of the project limits will be cleared and grubbed probably using a hydro-axe. Approximately 12,000 CY of silt overburden will be removed from this area to level off a staging area for the operation. The silt overburden and the debris generated by clearing and grubbing will be stockpiled along the northern portion of the project area (see Figure 2). This stockpile will remain in place and will be incorporated into the development of the Tanana Lakes Park area to the north of this project site. Access to the northeast operations area is via an existing trail/road along the north boundary of the project limits from Lathrop Street. This access road may require widening to approximately 30' wide to allow dump trucks and construction equipment access to the northeast operation area. Widening this access road may require minimal clearing and grubbing and placement of approximately 500 CY of fill material for road base. Approximately 380,000 CY of gravel is estimated to be extracted from Dredge Area 2.

An estimated total of 700,000 CY of gravel will be extracted during the project. Gravel extracted from both Dredge Area 1 and 2 will be stockpiled off the Southwest shore. Approximately 100,000 CY of cover material is required annually at the landfill. The proposed stockpile will be approximately 450' in diameter and 40-feet high containing approximately 200,000 cy of extracted gravel. Gravel will be hauled from the stockpile area to the South Cushman Landfill via an existing haul road as shown on Figures 1 and 5. Once excavation is complete, the portion of the haul road within the project limits will be graded to tie into the west bank of the lake. Future traffic will be diverted to the road east of the preserved area.